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Death of one Kunhiraman, Munderi amsam, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar.

12 noon. * 317 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a mahazar signed by about 300 persons has been received by the Government from the residents of Munderi amsam, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, alleging that the dead body of Sri E. Kunhiraman, a resident of the place, was found hanging under suspicious circumstances on 22nd March 1954, that it was a case of murder to be investigated into by the authorities, that the suspected culprits have been let free to move about and that efforts to record the case as one of the suicide are being made by the local authorities ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Government have obtained from the Inspector-General of Police the report of the District Superintendent of Police in the matter, and they are satisfied that the death of the deceased Kunhiraman was due to asphyxia due to hanging and that it was a case of suicide."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, there are about 18 murder cases undetected and unnoticed by the police and this is one among those cases. Are the Government aware that the police did not take evidence even from the people of the locality who wanted to give evidence about this cold-blooded murder? May I request the Hon. Minister to make an enquiry into the matter and may I also request him to instruct the police people in Malabar that in future they should not take up such a callous attitude towards murder cases? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" How many requests can the hon. Member make to the Hon. Minister? He has made more than two requests to the Hon. Minister." (Laughter.)

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Chair must grant at least one request ! "

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" My question is this. Are the Government aware that the police did not take evidence even from the people of that locality who were witnesses to the murder which took place in the night? If so, will the Government in future at least see that these murder cases are not neglected by the police by their callous attitude? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If the hon. Member is referring to the murder case of the kind referred to in the question, I may assure him that this is a case of suicide. As far as this case is concerned, we have made enquiries into the matter and the conclusion is that it is a case of suicide.

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I find that the reason given for the suicide is that one Narayanan Nambiar was responsible for it and not the hon. Member, Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar. (Laughter.) There was some love affair and the death was due to suicide.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' I will take five more minutes and finish the rest of the questions.''

Liquidation of co-operative stores in South Kanara.

* 318 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of co-operative stores registered in South Kanara till December 1953;

(*b*) the total amount of share capital collected;

(*c*) whether any stores have been ordered to be liquidated so far; and

(*d*) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' (*a*) Eighty-three.

'' (*b*) Rs. 4,15,196.

'' (*c*) Twenty-one stores have been ordered to be liquidated so far.

'' (*d*) The main reasons for the liquidation are—

(i) the societies sustained loss in their business after decontrol;

(ii) there was no enthusiasm on the part of the managements to work the institutions successfully and in certain cases there was mismanagement of the institutions; and

(iii) the General Body of societies in certain cases, voluntarily favoured liquidation.''

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—'' May I know what the Government propose to do with the reserve fund of those stores which are under liquidation? And may I also know whether the Government will consider the desirability of transferring the reserve fund of those stores to Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies which are functioning in those areas? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' This is a separate question.''

DR. K. B. MENON :—'' Is the Hon. Minister aware that quite a number of stores which have been ordered to be liquidated, have not been liquidated for the last three or four years? If so, is it a device to swell up the number of stores in the State so that the alleged international reputation may be maintained? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' As I said, due to decontrol and derationing, these stores have suffered loss in their business and some of them are going into voluntary liquidation. Liquidation of a store is resorted to only as a last measure, when all attempts to revive it prove unsuccessful.''